

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. *(currently amended)* A computer-implemented method for printing a plurality of digital images, the method comprising:

(A) receiving the plurality of images over a communications bus;  
estimating amounts of time required to perform image processing on the individual digital images;

selecting an order in which to perform image processing on at least some of the plurality of digital images based on the estimates made in estimating the amounts of time required to perform image processing on the individual digital images;

(A3) performing image processing on at least some of the plurality of digital images in the order selected to perform image processing to produce a plurality of processed images;

(B) storing the plurality of digital images in a RAMdisk;

(C) retrieving the plurality of digital images from the RAMdisk; and

(D) printing the plurality of digital images on output media;

wherein storing the plurality of digital images in a RAMdisk comprises storing the plurality of digital images in the RAMdisk in the order in which the plurality of digital images are to be printed, and

wherein retrieving the plurality of digital images from the RAMdisk comprises retrieving the plurality of digital images from the RAMdisk in the order in which the plurality of digital images are to be printed.

2. *(currently amended)* The method of claim 1,

whereto steps (A)-(D) said receiving the plurality of images over a communications bus;

said storing the plurality of digital images in a RAMdisk;

said retrieving the plurality of digital images from the RAMdisk; and

said printing the plurality of digital images on output media are performed by a print server, and

wherein the method further comprises:

- (E) at a print client, transmitting the plurality of digital images to the server over the communications bus.

3. *(canceled)*

4. *(currently amended)* The method of claim [[3]] 1, wherein the step (C) said retrieving the plurality of digital images from the RAMdisk further comprises a step of deleting each of the plurality of digital images after it is retrieved from the RAMdisk.

5. *(currently amended)* The method of claim 1, wherein the step (D) said printing the plurality of digital images on output media comprises a step of printing the plurality of digital images using a print engine without stopping and restarting the print engine.

6. *(currently amended)* A computer-implemented method for printing a plurality of digital images, the method comprising steps of:

- (A) at a print client, transmitting the plurality of digital images to a print server over a communications bus;
- (B) at a print server, receiving the plurality of images over the communications bus;
- (B1) at a print client, estimating amounts of time required to perform image processing on each of the plurality of digital images;
- (B2) at a print client, selecting an order in which to perform image processing on at least some of the plurality of digital images based on the estimates made when estimating, at the print client, the amounts of time required to perform image processing on each of the plurality of digital images;

- (B3) at a print client, performing image processing on at least some of the plurality of digital images in the order selected, at the print client, in which to perform image processing to produce a plurality of processed images;
- (C) at the print server, storing the plurality of digital images in a RAMdisk in the order in which the plurality of digital images are to be printed;
- (D) at the print server, retrieving the plurality of digital images from the RAMdisk in the order in which the plurality of digital images are to be printed;
- (E) at the print server, deleting the plurality of digital images after they are retrieved from the RAMdisk; and
- (F) at the print server, printing the plurality of digital images on output media using a print engine without stopping and restarting the print engine.

7. (*currently amended*) A system for printing a plurality of digital images, the system comprising:

- a communications bus;
- reception means for receiving the plurality of images over a communications bus;
- a means for estimating amounts of time required to perform image processing on each of the plurality of digital images;
- a means for selecting an order in which to perform image processing on at least some of the plurality of digital images based on the estimates made;
- a means for performing image processing on at least some of the plurality of digital images in the order selected to produce a plurality of processed images;
- storage means for storing the plurality of digital images in a RAMdisk;
- retrieval means for retrieving the plurality of digital images from the RAMdisk;
- and
- printing means for printing the plurality of digital images on output media;
- wherein the storage means comprises means for storing the plurality of digital images in the RAMdisk in the order in which the plurality of digital images are to be

printed, and wherein the retrieval means comprises means for retrieving the plurality of digital images from the RAMdisk in the order in which the plurality of digital images are to be printed.

8. *(original)* The system of claim 7, wherein the system further comprises a print server, wherein the print server comprises the reception means, the storage means, the retrieval means, and the printing means, and wherein the system further comprises a print client, the print client comprising transmission means for transmitting the plurality of digital images to the print server over the communications bus.

9. *(canceled)*

10. *(original)* The system of claim 7, wherein the printing means comprises means for printing the plurality of digital images using a print engine without stopping and restarting the print engine.

Claims 11 to 28 *(canceled)*

29. *(currently amended)* A computer-implemented method for printing a plurality of digital images, the method comprising steps of:

- (A) performing image processing on a first set of images including fewer than all of the digital images to produce a first plurality of processed images;
- (B) after the step (A) performing image processing on a first set of images including fewer than all of the digital images to produce a first plurality of processed images, activating a print engine to print the first plurality of processed images; and
- (C) printing the first plurality of processed images using the print engine.

30. (*currently amended*) The method of claim 29, further comprising steps of:

- (D) performing image processing on a second set of images including fewer than all of the digital images to produce a second plurality of processed images; and
- (E) printing the second plurality of processed images without stopping and reactivating the print engine.

31. (*currently amended*) The method of claim 29,

wherein steps (A) said performing image processing on a first set of images including fewer than all of the digital images to produce a first plurality of processed images is performed by a print client,

wherein steps (B)-(C) said performing image processing on a first set of images including fewer than all of the digital images to produce a first plurality of processed images, activating a print engine to print the first plurality of processed images; and

printing the first plurality of processed images using the print engine are performed by a print server, and wherein the method further comprises:

- (D) at the print client, transmitting the first plurality of processed images to the server over a communications bus.

Claims 32-35 (*canceled*)

36. (*original*) A system for printing a plurality of digital images, the system comprising:

first image processing means for performing image processing on a first set of images including fewer than all of the digital images to produce a first plurality of processed images;

print engine activation means for activating a print engine to print the first plurality of processed images; and

first printing means for printing the first plurality of processed images using the print engine.

37. (*original*) The system of claim 36, further comprising:

second image processing means for performing image processing on a second set of images including fewer than all of the digital images to produce a second plurality of processed images; and

second printing means for printing the second plurality of processed images without stopping and reactivating the print engine.

Claims 38-41 (*canceled*)